

Morning Highlights

June 3, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-04

Contact:
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Red Flag Warnings in Effect

RED FLAG warnings are in effect for low humidity over portions of the interior through Wednesday evening. A map showing the affected areas along with more information is available at: <http://firewx.arh.noaa.gov/warnings.php>.

Weather conditions are expected to be drier and warmer this week throughout Alaska, with the warmest temperatures predicted through the weekend for the eastern part of the state, along the Alaska Canada border.

In the current conditions, fires could grow very rapidly and become dangerous quickly. An all-encompassing burn suspension is in effect for the Tok area. Please contact Tok Area Forestry at 883-5134 if you have questions about open burning or are looking for more information.

With Alaska's lightning season just beginning and warm, dry conditions, it is important to be careful with human caused fire-starters including: cigarette butts, BBQs/grills, off-road vehicles, and anything else that may spark a new wildland fire.

Wildland Fires in Alaska

A map of existing fires is found at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php> (see: Fire Information). Note: the map may take some time to load if you have a slow internet connection. Information may also be found in the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Daily Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>.

According to AICC, 162 fires have been caused by humans this year and 38 have been caused by lightning. A total of 201 fires have burned 107,107 acres so far this year.

There are 37 active fires. Two fires are currently staffed:

- **Broken Snowshoe (#164) → 25,345 acres:** The fire is about 3.5 miles north of McGrath. On June 2, the fire was reported to be about 36% contained. The perimeter was remapped and the acreage was adjusted down slightly from previous reports. 252 personnel remain on the fire but additional crews and support resources are expected to be released today. Management of the fire is expected to transition to a Type 3 organization on June 4.
- **Old Man Fire (#175) → 755 acres:** The fire is northwest of Chicken and is

100-percent contained. 41 personnel remain on the fire. The Northstar Type 2 crew is still mopping up. Other crews and some overhead personnel have been released. The fire has transitioned to a type 4 incident management team.

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers (Alaska Division of Forestry) and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).

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